

# FIBER REINFORCED THERMOPLASTIC PRESSURE VESSELS

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A method of manufacturing hollow, fiber reinforced thermoplastic composite articles,  
2 such as a pressure vessel, is disclosed.) The thermoplastic binder is chosen to bind the  
3 reinforcing fibers together, to provide strength, and to provide ease of manufacture. The  
4 method includes placing a preform with an inflatable core into a mold, pressurizing the  
5 inflatable core, and heating the mold to enable the thermoplastic binder to melt and distribute  
6 throughout the preform, binding the reinforcing fibers. The article is then cooled and  
7 removed from the mold, resulting in a hollow molded article. The inflatable core may be  
8 removed from the article and reused, or the core may become an integral part of the finished  
9 article.

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